

## ABSTRACT

Systems for stabilizing the spine and facilitating placement of stabilization devices on the spine include one or more holding elements positionable in corresponding ones of one or more cannulated auxiliary elements of the stabilization device. The holding elements can be  
5 configured to manipulate and/or maintain alignment of the corresponding auxiliary element relative to the stabilization device. A driving tool engaged to the holding element facilitates remote manipulation. The systems can further be provided with blocking members engageable to the cannulated auxiliary elements to enhance engagement of the stabilization device with the spine and to facilitate revision surgery.